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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	The Nikolaevo Coal Mine	DATE DISTR.	30 October 1953	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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1. The Nikolaevo Coal Mine (Kamenno Vŭglena Mina, Nikolaevo) is located approximately three kilometers north of Nikolaevo village (N 42-37, E 25-48), Kazanluk Okoliya and west of the Khain Boaz stream. The mine was put into operation in 1939-1940. There are also mine shafts located north of Tviriditsa and Chumerna stations. (For a sketch of the locations, see Appendix A, pages 5 and 6, based on a freehand drawing made by informant.)

Personnel

2. There are about 50 administrative positions at the mine. [REDACTED] 25X1X
 - a. Ivan Tsanev (lnu), manager of the mine; born about 1908; average height, thin, round face, blond curly hair;
 - b. Sutrov (fnu), technical manager of the mine; born about 1918; average build, average face, dark brown hair;
 - c. Pavlov (fnu), mining engineer; born about 1903; short, stout, ruddy complexion, bald;
 - d. Kolyu Dragiev, clerk in the mine office; born about 1903; short, thin, dark hair;
 - e. Stoycho Katsarov, supervisor at the mine pit, allocates workmen and controls the work; born about 1908-1913; average height, average weight, thin face, greying hair, blue eyes;

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- f. Gancho (Inu), supervisor at the mine pit; born about 1905-1906; tall, average weight, greying hair;
 - g. Nikola Georgiev, supervisor at the mine pit; born about 1903; average height, thin, long thin face, brown hair;
 - h. Stanyu Minchev Simeonov, work controller; born about 1918; from Dimovtsi village, Kazanluk Okoliya; a farmer until 1944 when he started working at the mine; not a Communist Party member; average weight, tall, long face, dark hair;
 - i. Petur Vasilev Petrov, work controller; born about 1921; from Dimovtsi village; progymnasium education; farmer in Dimovtsi until 1944; average height, stout, fat face, dark hair, black mustache;
 - j. Atanas Pavlov, foreman; born about 1915-1916; short, stout, round face, brown hair; Communist Party member; and
 - k. Georgi Ganchev, foreman; born about 1915-1916; short, stout, brown hair.
3. During the periods that informant was working at the mine, there were approximately 500 workers employed; about two percent of these were women, employed as sorters. Workers range from 20 to about 40 years of age; people under 18 were not permitted to work at the mine. There was no forced labor.
 4. During 1950-1951, while passing the mine area, informant saw many prisoners at work. He was told by other mine workers that about 700 prisoners were put to work at the mine during this time. He does not know the reason why the use of forced labor was discontinued.
 5. There were no Soviets employed at the mine.

Working and Living Conditions

6. There are three shifts at the mine, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. The six hours of the night shift are equated with eight hours on the other shifts. There are normally six days in the work week, but occasionally work is done on Sunday.
7. Common laborers in the mine receive 450 leva (old currency) a day; experienced miners work as sub-contractors and informant heard that they earn 50,000 to 60,000 leva (old currency) a month.
8. Workers at the mine are issued a set of blue cotton trousers and jacket once a year, a pair of rubber boots every six months, and battery-run miners' lamps.
9. Workers living in the surrounding villages are taken to and from the mine by truck. Most of the miners live in Dimovtsi, Gurkovo, and Nikolaevo. Some of the workers live with their families in the workers' apartments indicated as No. 16 in Appendix B, pages 7 and 8.
10. There is a canteen at the mine where workers can buy meals; however, most of the miners bring their food with them. There is a Narmag (Naroden Magazin; People's Store) where wearing apparel, foodstuffs, liquor, etc. can be bought. There is a barber shop three meters square in size. There is a cinema for the workers at the mine. The canteen and cinema are housed in a building 35 by 15 meters in size.

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11. [REDACTED] sickness at the mine. [REDACTED] 25X1X
 25X1X [REDACTED], there were a few cave-ins in which
 five or six men were killed, but he does not know the details.

12. The morale of the workers is generally low because of the heavy work and low pay.

Mine Installations

13. A sketch of the installations of the Nikolaev Mine, based on a freehand drawing made by informant, is enclosed as Appendix B, pages 7 and 8.
14. The administrative offices are located in a 3-story building (Figure 1). The offices of the supply chief and sanitary officer are on the ground floor. The manager's office, accounting offices, and safe are on the second floor. Informant does not know what offices are on the third floor.
15. Electricity is supplied to the mine by high tension wires from Stara Zagora. There is a transformer at the mine (Figure 2) which is about 3 by 2 by 7-8 meters. An underground electric cable leads from the transformer to the mine shaft, from where it is strung on poles to the various galleries. The electrically-operated machines used in the mine are attached directly to this cable, but the current passes through 40 by 20 centimeter transformers before being run to the lighting equipment.
16. Employees are assigned work details at a 1-story building 20 by five meters in size (Figure 3). Part of this building contains a battery charger.
17. The bakery and quarters for the bakers are located in a building 10 by 10 meters in size (Figure 4). The carpentry, lathe, locksmith and oxygen welding shops are located in a building 40 by 10 meters in size (Figure 5); a master craftsman and his assistant work in the blacksmith shop, and four or five men work in the carpentry shop.
18. The shaft entrance (Figure 6) is connected with the 30 by 10 meter sorting plant (Figure 9) by a narrow gauge line over which the mining cars are drawn by horses.
19. There is a 1-story carpentry shop, seven meters square, which contains a power saw (Figure 7). Wood and lumber are stored about this shop, and the area is enclosed by barbed wire.
20. Horses used in pulling the mining cars along the horizontal galleries are stabled in a 15 by 7 meter stable (Figure 10). Trucks are garaged in a building 20 by eight meters in size; there is a public bath in part of this building (Figure 11). Tools, building equipment, etc. are stored in a depot 30 by 10 meters in size (Figure 13).
21. The first floor of the 3-story building (Figure 14), 30 by 10 meters in size, is used by Narmag; the remaining floors contain dormitories for mine personnel. There are two 3-story dormitory buildings 30 by 10 meters in size used for mine personnel (Figure 15). There are two buildings 15 meters square, which each contain three or four apartments for workers (Figure 16). The manager of the mine lives in a 1-story house containing three or four rooms (Figure 17). Militiamen use a building four meters square (Figure 18).
22. There are two entrances to the mine area, which is enclosed by barbed wire (Figure 19).

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23. There are two 5,000-6,000 liter gasoline tanks in a depot 10 meters square (Figure 20); about the depot there are 30 or 40 gasoline drums of 250-liter capacity each. About 1.5 kilometers southwest of the mine area there is an area (enclosed by barbed wire) containing three 1-story buildings four meters square (Figure 21); one building houses three or four Militiamen, another contains explosives, and the other detonators.
24. The mine area is connected with the Dimovtsi-Nikolarevo road (shown as A-B) and the Turnovo-Gurkovo road (shown as C-D). There are vineyards northeast of the mining area (shown as E); and the Khain Boaz stream flows east of the area (shown as F), in a north-south direction.

Mining Operation and Production

25. The following description is keyed to the sketch in Appendix C, pages 9 and 10, which is based on a freehand drawing made by informant.
26. In every shift, two or three experienced workers are assigned to drill dynamite holes. The dynamite is then put in place by laborers and detonated electrically. An experienced miner and his assistant then shore up the gallery.
27. There is a shed, two by three meters in size, located above the 1.5 by 1.5 meter air vent (Figure 1), which contains the ventilating equipment. After blasting is completed, it takes at least one hour to clean the air.
28. The coal is dug with hand tools and placed on an inclined trough from which it pours onto an electrically-operated conveyor (Figure 2). Informant has seen three of these conveyors in the third horizontal gallery (Figure 3). The coal is loaded from the conveyors into mine cars of 200 kilogram capacity. One or two workers attach the mine cars to a winch in the sloping shafts (Figure 4). The winches can handle only one mine car at a time; there is one winchman at every winch with an assistant who unhitches the mine cars. The sloping shafts are about 100 meters apart and about 30 meters long.
29. The galleries are about two meters wide and 1.8 meters high. From the first gallery, which is about 200 meters long, the cars are drawn by horses to the sorting building. At the second horizontal gallery (Figure 6), the coal is transferred to mine cars of 500 kilogram capacity and drawn in trains of three or four cars to the inclined gallery (Figure 7) by horses. The inclined gallery between the second gallery and the first horizontal gallery (Figure 9) is 150 meters long. The winch (Figure 8) can handle two cars of 500 kilogram capacity in reciprocal action.
30. The quota for each shift is 80 mine cars of 500 kilogram capacity, i.e., a total of 40,000 kilograms. The coal is lignite and is divided into three grades according to size. There are no storage facilities at the mine. The coal is taken to the Gurkovo station or to a factory producing porcelain parts near the Nikolaev station in five or six ZIS trucks of three or four ton capacity.

Mine Security

31. The mine area is enclosed by a barbed wire entanglement two meters high and tightly coiled. The mine area is restricted to people working there; visitors must apply to the Militia office located 10-15 meters east of the east gate and if they are permitted to enter, are accompanied to their destination by a Militiaman. There

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are four Militiamen assigned to the mine; they are armed with carbines and sub-machine guns. Each night the Militiamen perform roving watchman duty.

32. Workers at the mine have no special passes. Instead they are checked by the Militiaman to prevent the entry of a stranger (sic). The miners are not searched on entering and leaving the mine area. Miners can roam freely about the mine area and can enter and leave the area at will.

- 25X1A 1. Comment: Informant claims he knows that shafts exist north of Tvurditsa and Chumerna stations, but has no further information concerning them.

LEGEND TO APPENDIX A

1. Dimovtsi village..
2. Nikolaev Coal Mine (See Appendix B for details).
3. Nikolaev railroad station.
4. Porcelain factory.
5. Khain Boaz stream.
6. Khain Boaz pass.
7. Gurkovo village.
8. Gurkovo railroad station.
9. Tvurditsa railroad station.
10. Chumerna railroad station.
11. Mine pits.
12. Cable car line.

A-B. Kazanluk-Sliven highway.

C-D. Kazanluk-Sliven railroad line.

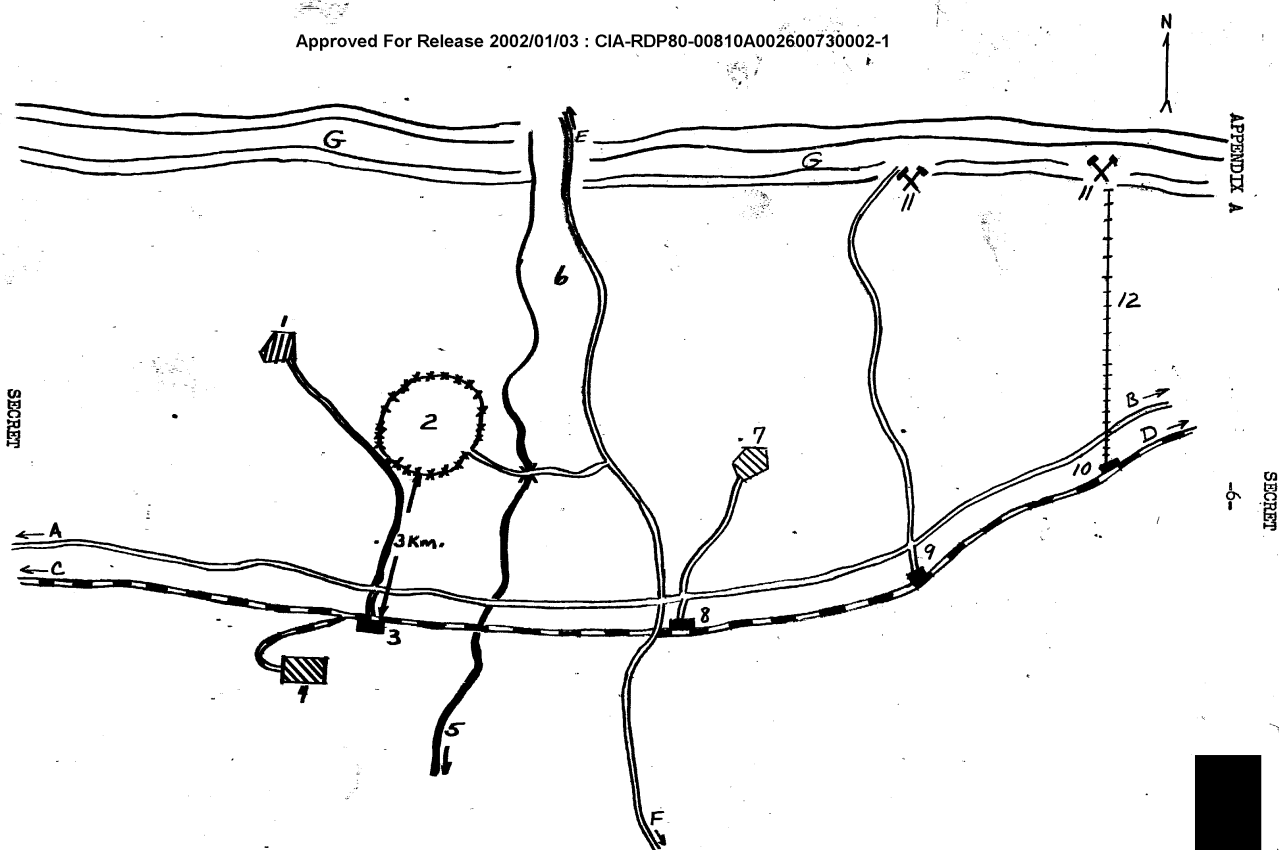
E-F. Turnovo-Nova Zagora highway.

G. Stara Planina Mountains.

NOTE: The sketch is not drawn to scale.

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Abstract

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APPENDIX B

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LEGEND

1. Administration offices, 3-story building.
 2. Transformer.
 3. Building where work details are assigned. Part of this building contains a battery charger.
 4. Bakery and quarters for the bakers.
 5. Carpentry, lathe, locksmith, and oxygen welding shops.
 6. Shaft entrance.
 7. Carpentry shop containing power saw.
 8. Barber shop.
 9. Sorting plant.
 10. Stable.
 11. Truck garage. Public bath also located in this building.
 12. Canteen and cinema.
 13. Depot for tools, building equipment, clothing, etc.
 14. A 3-story building. Narmag on first floor, dormitories for mine personnel on two upper floors.
 15. Dormitories for mine personnel.
 16. Apartments for workers.
 17. Manager's house.
 18. Militia building.
 19. Mine entrance.
 20. Gasoline depot.
 21. Enclosed area -- 1 building for three or four Militimen, 1 building for explosives, and 1 building for detonators.
- A-B. Dimovtsi-Nikolaev road.
- C-D. Turnov-Gurkovo road.
- E. Vineyards.
- F. Khain Boas stream.

NOTE: Sketch not drawn to scale.

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APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

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LEGEND

1. Shed containing ventilating equipment.
2. Electrically-operated conveyor.
3. Third horizontal gallery.
4. Sloping shafts.
5. Winches, can operate one car at a time.
6. Second horizontal gallery.
7. Inclined gallery.
8. Winch, can handle two cars in reciprocal action.
9. First horizontal gallery.

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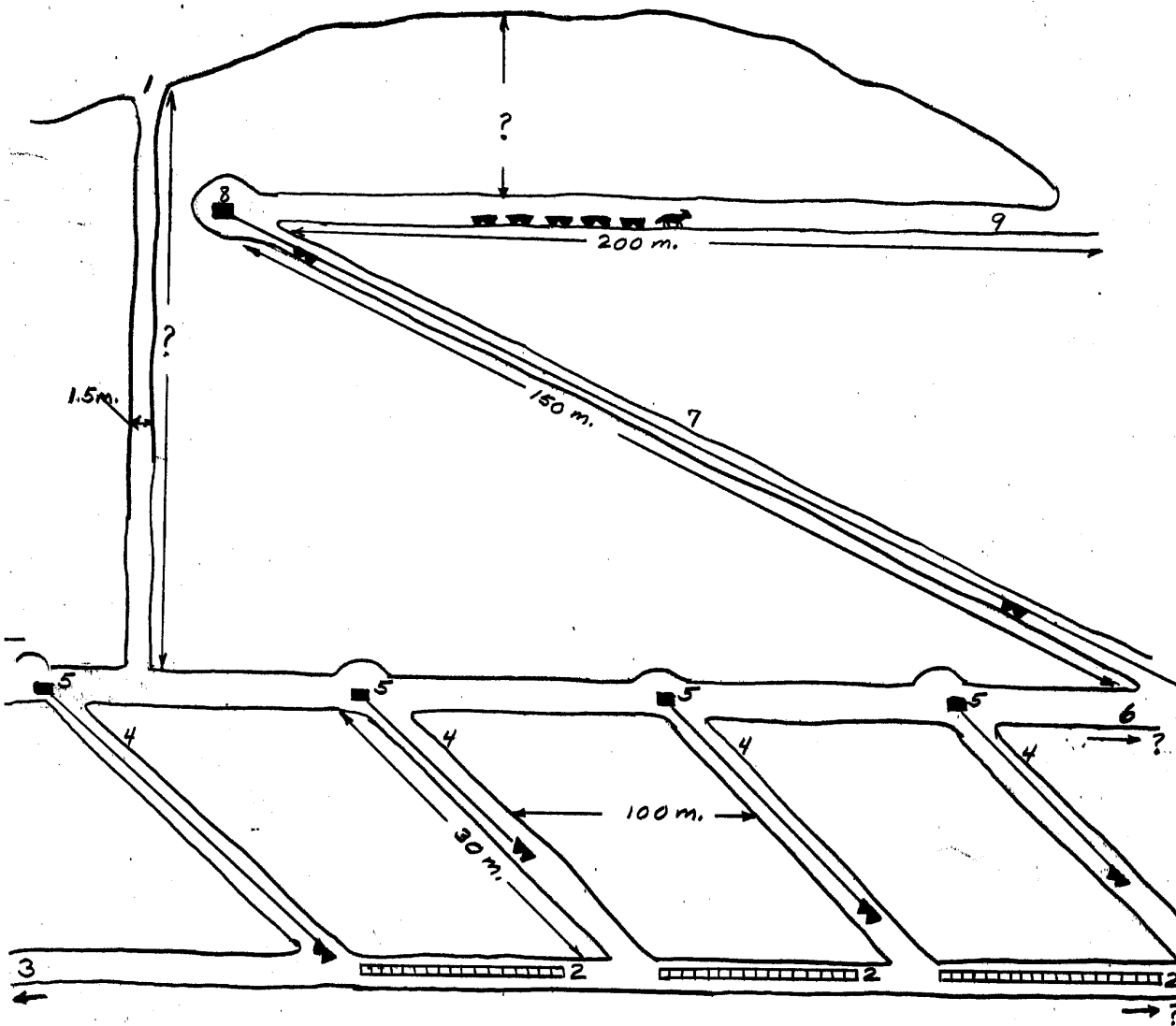
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APPENDIX C

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(not drawn to scale)



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